



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY DECEMBER 22, 2024

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Troparion – Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Troparion – Tone 4

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all! Adorn thyself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave! Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit; if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam.// Christ is born to raise up again what fell in former times, His image.

Kontakion – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha! The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb. The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,// and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Kontakion – Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to the Eternal Word. Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe! Glorify with the angels and the shepherds// the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!
V. *For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Sunday Before the Nativity

The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ we commemorate Adam and Eve (the first-created), the righteous Abel, son of Adam, the righteous Seth, son of Adam, the righteous Enos, son of Seth, the righteous Kenan, son of Enos, the righteous Mehaliel (Maleleim), son of Kenan, the righteous Jared, son of Mehaliel, the righteous Enoch, son of Jared, the righteous Methuselah, son of Enoch, the righteous Lamech, son of Methuselah, the righteous Noah, son of Lamech, the righteous Shem, son of Noah, the righteous Japheth, son of Noah, the righteous Arphachshad, son of Shem, the righteous Canaan, son of Arphachshad (in some versions of the OT, Canaan is called the son of Ham), the righteous Shelah, son of Canaan (some versions of the OT call Shelah the son of Arphachshad), the righteous Eber (from whom the Hebrews take their name), son of Shelah, the righteous Peleg, son of Eber, the righteous Ragab (Reu), son of Peleg, the righteous Serug, son of Ragab, the righteous Nahor, son of Serug, the righteous Terah, son of Serug.

The holy Patriarchs: the righteous Patriarch Abraham, son of Terah, the righteous Patriarch Isaac, son of Abraham, the righteous Patriarch Jacob, son of Isaac, the righteous Patriarch Reuben, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Simeon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Levi, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Judah (Christ was of this tribe), the righteous Patriarch Zebulon, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Issachar, son of Jacob and Leah, the righteous Patriarch Dan, son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's maid), the righteous Patriarch Gad, son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's maid), the righteous Patriarch Asher, son of Jacob and Zilpah, the righteous Patriarch Naphtali, son of Jacob and Bilhah, the righteous Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob and Rachel, the righteous Patriarch Benjamin, son of Jacob and Rachel.

The righteous Pharez and Zerah, twin sons of Judah, the righteous Hezron, son of Pharez, the righteous Aram, son of Hezron, the righteous Aminadab, son of Aram, the righteous Nahshon, son of Aminadab, the righteous Salmon, son of Nahshon, the righteous Boaz, son of Salmon, the righteous Obed, son of Boaz and Ruth, the righteous Jesse, son of Obed.

The holy Prophet-King David, son of Jesse, King Solomon, son of David, King Rehoboam, son of Solomon, King Abijah, son of Rehoboam, King Asa, son of Abijah, King Jehosaphat, son of Asa, King Joram (Jehoram, an evil king), son of Jehosaphat, King Ochoziah (Ahaziah), son of Joram, King Jotham, son of Uzziah (Oziah), King Ahaz (a faithless king), son of Jotham, King Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, King Manesseh, son of Hezekiah, King Amos (Ammon), son of Manesseh, King Josiah, son of Amos, King Jechoniah, son of Josiah.

Shealtiel, son of Jechoniah, Zerubbabel (who led captives back to Jerusalem, and laid the foundations of the new Temple), son of Shealtiel, Abiud, son of Zerubbabel, Eliachem, son of Abiud, Azor, son of Eliachem, Zadok, son of Azor, Achim, son of Zadok, Eliud, son of Achim, Eleazar, son of Eliud, Matthan, son of Eleazar, Jacob, son of Matthan, St Joseph the Betrothed, son of Jacob. The righteous Melchizedek, King of Salem, the righteous Job, the holy Prophet Moses, the priests Hur and Aaron, Joshua, son of Nun. The holy prophet Samuel, the holy prophet Nathan, the holy prophet Daniel, the three holy youths Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

The righteous Sarah, wife of Abraham, the righteous Rebecca, wife of Isaac, the righteous Leah, first wife of Jacob, the righteous Rachel, second wife of Jacob, the righteous Asineth, wife of Patriarch Joseph the all-comely, the righteous Miriam, sister of Moses, the righteous Deborah, Judge of Israel and prophetess, the righteous Ruth, wife of Boaz, the righteous woman of Zarephath, to whom Elias was sent (3 Kings 17), the righteous woman of Shunem, who was hospitable to Elisha (4 Kings 4), the righteous Judith, slayer of Holofernes, the righteous Esther, who delivered Israel from death, the righteous Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, the righteous Susanna.

Righteous Ezra

Righteous Ezra was a scribe and priest who lived in Babylon (during the Captivity), and returned to Jerusalem circa 458 B. C. He collected and revised the previous Old Testament writings, and established the Old Testament Canon. His book I Esdras 1 (in the Greek Septuagint) tells the story of the return to Jerusalem.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered

about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

To add a name, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

For the Sick / Caregiver

Archpriest Thomas (12/1)

Liam (12/1)

Kelly (12/1)

Alla (12/1)

Alexandra (12/1)

Father Paul (12/1)

Matushka Mary (12/1)

Michael (12/15)

Anna (12/15)

Michael (12/15)

Carmine (12/15)

Marianne (12/15)

Subdeacon Serge (12/22)

Melody (12/22)

Michael (12/22)

Charlotte (12/22)

Mihai (12/22)

Virgiliu (12/22)

Thomas (12/22)

Emilia (12/22)

Adrian (12/22)

Paula (12/22)

Valentin (12/22)

Alexandru (12/22)

Anamaria (12/22)

For the Deceased

Michael (12/1)

Lenore (12/1)

Saverio (12/22)

Maria (12/22)

Ioan (12/22)

Matushka Maria (12/22)

Paulina (12/22)

Ioan (12/22)

Mia (12/22)

Carolina (12/22)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of December 22

Sunday December 22 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Tuesday December 24 – **CHRISTMAS EVE** 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Supper (potluck Lenten) in Daria Hall followed by Great Compline with Litya at 7:00 PM. *A sign-up sheet for the Supper is on the credenza in the back of the church.*

Wednesday December 25 – **HOLY NATIVITY** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Thursday December 26 – **SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Friday December 27 – **PROTOMARTYR STEPHEN** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday December 28 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday December 29 – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Upcoming Service Schedule for 2024/2025

Tuesday December 31 – **EVE OF FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 5:00 PM Vespers with Litya

Wednesday January 1 – **FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION** 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday January 4 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday January 5 – **EVE OF FEAST OF THEOPHANY** 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall ; 5:00 PM Great Compline with Litya

Monday January 6 – **FEAST OF THEOPHANY** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of Water

Tuesday January 7 – **SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

December 22 – 135 adults, 28 youth, \$3,445

ORTHODOXY 101

The Divine Liturgy

Did you know that the Divine Liturgy may never be celebrated privately by the clergy alone, which was common practice in the Roman Catholic Church back in the day. It also may never be served just for some and not for others. The reason is that the Divine Liturgy is the common action/work of Orthodox Christians officially gathered to constitute the Orthodox Church. It is the action of the Church assembled by God in order to be together in one community to worship, pray, to sing, to hear God's Word, to be instructed in God's commandments, to offer itself with thanksgiving in Christ to God the Father, and to have the living experience of God's eternal kingdom through communion with the same Christ who is present in his people by the Holy Spirit. The Divine Liturgy is always "on behalf of all and for all".

The Divine Liturgy is the one common sacrament of the very being of the Church itself. It is the one sacramental manifestation of the essence of the Church as the Community of God in heaven and on earth. In and through the Divine Liturgy, **heaven and earth are united** in worship of the triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is the one unique sacramental revelation of the Church as the mystical Body and Bride of Christ.

(Taken from The Orthodox Faith by Fr. Thomas Hopko Volume II Worship)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, the Sunday School the teachers will be showing a movie on The Nativity in the basement of Daria Hall – all children are welcome to join us! Also, there will not be any Sunday School next Sunday, December 29.

There are still some baked items for sale! Also, pierogies will be sold every Sunday during Coffee Hour.

Today Juan Garcia, Ludwin Lopez, Amber Touch and her daughter, Athena were Baptized and Chrismated into the Orthodox faith. God's blessings on all of our new Orthodox brothers and sisters!

There will be a FOCA meeting today during Coffee Hour.

Thank you to everyone who attended the children's Yolka last Sunday – the children did a wonderful job! Many thanks to the teachers, assistants, and choir members who practiced with the children for many Sundays, to St. Nicholas for his visit and gifts for the children, and to the FOCA Club for the goodie bags for the children.

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will be raffling off a handmade winter wreath and table runner starting January 5. The wreath is perfect for a door or wall, and the matching table runner highlights a lovely table winterscape. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

A sign up sheet for the **potluck Christmas Eve Supper** is on the credenza in the back of the church. Please sign up if you plan on attending, and write down what Lenten dish you will provide to share.

If anyone is replacing a **small couch or Futon**, please consider donating your used item for the children's play area in Daria Hall. Parents, **please remind your children that no food or drink should be in the play area.**

Regarding Coffee Hour, please be mindful that although the hosts provide the refreshments, the church buys the **supplies** used for Coffee Hour – paper plates, cups, plasticware, 3 types of coffee, tea, sugar, paper towel, soap, etc. Please remember to make a small donation in the **Donation basket** on the food table to help offset the expense to the church. Thank you!

It is important to partake in **Holy Confession and Holy Communion** during the Nativity Fast. Contact Father Volodymyr if you need to schedule a specific time for Confession.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Father Volodymyr – December 24

Stefania Balasa – December 27

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Dec. 22 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Svetlana Sosedov

Dec. 29 Natalia Kolomatskaia, Guy Radcliffe

Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco

Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett

Jan. 19 Juan Garcia, Benjamin & Julie Stell

Jan. 26 **Annual Parish Meeting, FOCA Chili Cook-Off**
Feb. 2 Anna, Leon, & Simeon Brasowski, Brittani & Alex Brasowski
Feb. 9 Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa
Feb. 16 Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko
Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel
Mar. 2 Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson
Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato
Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova
Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss
Apr. 13 **FAST** Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton, Melody Stavisky
Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**
Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado

Have a healthy, blessed week!